



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

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More than
the Queen's English
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JANUARY 25, 2011 64th year, number 11

the Bulletin

Remembering Ernest McCulloch



LISA SAKULENSKY

University Professor Emeritus Ernest McCulloch, one of the fathers of stem cell research, died last week. He is seen here in 2004 being hooded by President David Naylor as part of his honorary degree ceremony. His fellow stem cell researcher, University Professor Emeritus James Till (left), looks on.

University Professor Emeritus Ernest McCulloch, one of the fathers of stem cell research, died last week at 89, leaving a brilliant research legacy.

Fifty years ago, he and University Professor Emeritus **James Till** broke new ground, demonstrating the existence of stem cells by creating the first quantitative clonal method for identifying them. By establishing the concept of stem cells and setting a framework for studying

them, they launched a new era in cell biology that offers promise for treatment of myriad diseases, such as cancer and cardiac ailments.

Their work, done at the Ontario Cancer Institute of Princess Margaret Hospital, earned them both the Gairdner Award in 1969 and the 2005 Albert Lasker Award Basic Medical Research Award.

McCulloch and Till were also leaders in another field, that of collaborative

research. McCulloch, a hematologist, and Till, a biophysicist, demonstrated that the synergy created exploring a problem from differing perspectives could lead to outstanding results.

"Just as important as their success in the lab, the example they provided to subsequent generations of researchers as colleagues, collaborators and friends continues to inform and inspire the

... **MCCULLOCH** ON PAGE 4

Philosopher to head University College

BY ELAINE SMITH

Professor Donald Ainslie, chair of both the Department of Philosophy in the Faculty of Arts and Science and the tri-campus Graduate Department of Philosophy, has been named principal of University College for a five-year term effective July 1.

Ainslie's appointment was approved Jan. 17 by the agenda committee of Academic Board. He succeeds Professor **Sylvia Bashevkin**, whose term ends June 30.

"University College is really the heart of arts and science and thus the heart of the university," said Ainslie. "Taking a leadership role there is an opportunity to help both the faculty and the university."

After beginning his career in 1996 at what was then Erindale College, Ainslie became chair of the Faculty of Arts and Science and graduate departments of philosophy in 2003. During his tenure, the department has hired a number of talented faculty members and launched imaginative undergraduate and graduate initiatives, including the Socrates Project. This project, which earned a Northrop Frye Award in 2009, offers senior undergraduates the opportunity to learn philosophy by teaching it to other students.

Ainslie brings additional administrative experience to his new position. He served as the co-ordinator of U of T's undergraduate bioethics program from 2001 to 2003 and also serves on a

number of Faculty of Arts and Science committees. As a member of the curriculum renewal steering committee (2007-2008) he helped to create the writing instruction for teaching assistants (WIT) program.

As a researcher, his major fields of study are the history of modern philosophy and bioethics. Ainslie is especially interested in the 18th-century Scottish philosopher David Hume. He has written numerous articles on this empiricist

and is currently completing a book for Oxford University Press entitled *Hume's Bundle: Scepticism and Self-Understanding in the Treatise*.

"Donald Ainslie brings enormous talent as a scholar and an administrator to University College," said Professor **Cheryl Misak**, vice-president and provost. "He also brings a long-standing and well-recognized commitment to undergraduate education — a commitment which will serve the students of UC very well."

CAMH psychologist to join UTSC

BY ANDREW WESTOLL

This spring, the faculty of psychology at U of T Scarborough will welcome into their ranks one of Canada's most influential and respected psychologists in clinical and personality psychology.

Dr. **Michael Bagby**, currently director of clinical research and senior scientist at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), will assume the position of professor of psychology at UTSC beginning May 1 on a full-time basis. One of his main objectives will be to take a strong leadership role in UTSC's proposed new doctoral program in clinical psychology.

Since completing his PhD at York University in 1986, Bagby has published nearly 300 peer-reviewed articles. He has also written three books and copyrighted

four psychological tests. Collectively, his work has been cited in the scientific literature more than 8,000 times; 13 of his articles have been cited in more than 100 papers.

In recognition of the remarkable reach and impact of his research, Bagby has been named an Institute of Scientific Information (ISI) highly cited scientist, a distinction held only by the top one per cent of scientists worldwide.

"We are delighted to have Michael Bagby join our psychology department," said Professor **Rick Halpern**, dean and vice-principal (academic) of UTSC. "His arrival signals a major step forward for our clinical psychology program and our efforts to forge connections between Scarborough and a number of partner institutions in the mental health

... **CAMH** ON PAGE 4

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Language is ...

the currency with which most of us do our jobs. We may not think about language as we write memos, shoot off emails or tweet about the day's events, but it is at the heart of our daily lives and our relationships.

In this issue, we examine our love of language through four stories about words and English (see pages 6 and 7). We find that words combined into stories hundreds of years ago resonate through the ages and across cultures. We discover that jargon, while useful armour for a professional, may not be the best way to communicate and we learn that books are more than what is printed on their pages. Most of all, we realize that language endures and evolves. It is varied and malleable and it also provides the building blocks that help us define the ideas that shape us.

Sometimes, however, words can't adequately express all the emotion we may feel. Such is the case in the passing of University Professor Emeritus **Ernest McCulloch** (see page 1). McCulloch, along with colleague **James Till**, is a father of stem cell research. Fifty years ago, the two men proved the existence of stem cells and medical research changed irrevocably. Not only was McCulloch (a hematologist) an excellent researcher, he was a good person. In a world where talent and decency don't necessarily go hand in hand, it's a wonderful accolade. Yet words can't completely capture his essence or the loss many people in the U of T community and throughout the medical world feel at his death.

Despite language's inadequacies, it is still the best communications medium available to us and all of us use it to try to capture strong emotions. Among those most skilled at doing so are our great writers and poets, such as Shakespeare, Jonson and Shelley. Joining their words with music gives them more power, as Professor **Lorna MacDonald** will demonstrate Feb. 10 when she and Professor **Steven Philcox** present a Valentine's Day edition of *Breakfast With the Bulletin* devoted to love songs (see page 8). Beautiful text plus wonderful music should equal a delightful experience.

As you peruse this issue of *the Bulletin*, we hope you'll think about language in all its glory and inadequacy and be happy that you have words at your disposal.

Regards,

Elaine

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the Bulletin

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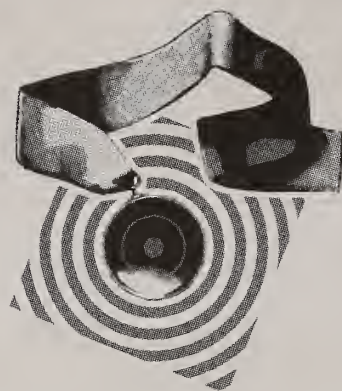
STAFF WRITERS: Anjum Nayyar • Kelly Rankin

ADVERTISING/DISTRIBUTION: Mavic Palanca • mavic.palanca@utoronto.ca

WEBSITE: www.news.utoronto.ca/bulletin.html

The Bulletin is printed on partially recycled paper. Material may be reprinted in whole or in part with appropriate credit to *The Bulletin*. Published twice a month, and once in July, August and December, by the Strategic Communications Department, 21 King's College Circle, University of Toronto, Toronto, M5S 3J3.

EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES: 416-978-7016 • DISTRIBUTION ENQUIRIES: 416-978-2106
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AWARDS & HONOURS

publication of the Association of College and Research Libraries, for its list of Outstanding Academic Titles of 2010. The list contains approximately 10 per cent of some 7,000 works reviewed in *Choice* each year.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Professor **Andrea Furlan** of medicine and the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute has been selected to receive the 2011 Early Career Award of the Canadian Pain Society. The award acknowledges the important contributions Furlan has made and demonstrates the high regard in which she is held by her colleagues. Furlan will deliver the keynote presentation at the Canadian Pain Society's annual conference and receive the award during the annual dinner April 15 in Niagara Falls, Ont.

Professor **Avrum Gotlieb** of laboratory medicine and pathobiology is the winner of the 2011 Robbins Distinguished Educator Award, given by the American Society for Investigative Pathology to recognize individuals whose contributions to education in pathology have had a manifest impact at a regional, national or international level. Gotlieb, noted for the design of innovative educational platforms and curricula, among other achievements, will receive the award during the society's annual meeting April 9 to 13 in Washington, D.C.

Professor **Daniel Klass** of medicine is the 2010 recipient of the Medical Council of Canada's Outstanding Achievement Award in the Evaluation of Clinical Competence, recognizing a particularly important and vital contribution to health care in Canada — the evaluation of clinical and professional competence in the health professions. Cited as having had a lengthy career practising and teaching medicine as well as conducting research in physiology and performance evaluation, Klass has been involved throughout his career in efforts to improve the way doctors' performance has been assessed.

Professor **Dana Philpott** of immunology is the winner of the 2011 Canadian Association of Gastroenterology Young Investigator Award, presented annually to a young investigator (under 45 years of age or within seven years of first academic appointment) in recognition of outstanding research in the field of gastroenterology and related fields. Philpott will deliver an award lecture during the association's annual scientific conference Feb. 26 to March 1 in Vancouver.

Professor **Val Rachlis** of family and community medicine and the Department of Family and Community Medicine at North York General Hospital is the winner of the 2010 Jan Kasperski Leadership Award of the Ontario College of Family Physicians. Created in 2008, the award is offered annually to an outstanding leader who best exemplifies exceptional leadership in the pursuit of excellence in family medicine in Ontario.

COMPILED BY AILSA FERGUSON

FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Professors **Grant Allen** of chemical engineering and applied chemistry, **Robert Andrews** of civil engineering, **Mark Fox** of mechanical and industrial engineering, **Doug Hooton** of civil engineering and **Shaker Meguid** of mechanical and industrial engineering and Professor Emeritus **Gordon Slemmon** of electrical and computer engineering, a former dean of the faculty, have been honoured by the Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC) for their achievements in engineering. Andrews was selected to receive the Julian C. Smith Medal for "achievement in the development of Canada." Fox garnered the Canadian Pacific Railway Engineering Medal for "years of leadership and service to the institute," while Slemmon was awarded the Sir John Kennedy Medal, the institute's highest honour. Allen, Hooton and Meguid have been named EIC fellows for their exceptional contributions to engineering in Canada. The honourees will be recognized at the EIC awards banquet March 5 at the Westin Hotel in Ottawa.

FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE

Senior Lecturer **Andy Dicks** of chemistry is the recipient of the American Chemical Society's Recognition of Exemplary Work in the Incorporation of Sustainability in Chemistry Education Award, acknowledging creativity in incorporating the notion of sustainability into chemical education. Dicks will attend the symposium on Chemistry Education and Sustainability during the society's 2011 spring national meeting March 27 to 31 in Anaheim to present research projects by several of his undergraduate students.

Professor **Mary Nyquist** of English and women's studies has been elected honoured scholar of the Milton Society of America, a lifetime achievement award of the 500-strong Milton society. The award recognizes her, not only as a world-class authority on Milton and on feminism, but as a sophisticated thinker on a remarkable range of other writers and issues. The Milton Society aims to further Milton scholarship, not only in the U.S. but internationally, by bringing Milton scholars together at an annual dinner, by selecting outstanding scholars for honour and by encouraging research in progress, among other endeavours. Nyquist will be honoured at the society's annual dinner and meeting Jan. 7, 2012 during the Modern Language Association's annual meeting in Seattle.

Professor **Holly Wardlaw**'s recent book *The Secret: Love, Marriage and HIV*, co-authored with Jennifer Hirsch, Daniel Jordan Smith, Harriet Phinney, Shanti Parikh and Constance Nathanson, has been selected by *Choice*, the

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The top and sidebar art on the front page is composed of photographs taken at U of T's Faculty of Music.

Nine faculty members elected AAAS fellows

BY PAUL FRAUMENI

Nine University of Toronto researchers are among the 503 to be elected fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world's largest science society and publisher of the prestigious journal, *Science*.

The new U of T fellows are:

- Professor **Stewart Aitchison** of electrical and computer engineering, cited for pioneering contributions to nonlinear optics, particularly the first observation of spatial optical solitons and the first experimental observation of discrete spatial optical solitons
- Professor **Brenda Andrews** of the Donnelly Centre for Cellular and Biomolecular Research (CCBR) and the Banting and Best Department of Medical Research (BBDMR), cited for distinguished contributions in yeast genetics and genomics
- Professor **Nasser Ashgriz** of mechanical and industrial engineering, cited for distinguished contributions to fluid dynamics through the development of computer models for free surface flows and foundational studies on droplet

collision and coalescence

- Professor **Charles Boone** of the Donnelly CCBR and BBDMR, cited for distinguished contributions in the area of yeast genetics and genomics.
- Professor **Elizabeth Edwards** of chemical engineering and applied chemistry, cited for distinguished contributions to the fields of environmental microbiology and engineering, particularly the biodegradation, biotransformation and bioremediation of organic pollutants in soil and water
- Professor **Freda Miller** of molecular genetics and The Hospital for Sick Children, cited for studies on neural and dermal stem cells and of neuronal growth, survival and apoptosis
- Professor **Jun Nogami** of materials science and engineering, cited for distinguished contributions to materials engineering and nanotechnology, particularly in relation to surface structure studies with scanning tunneling microscopy
- Professor **Paul Santerre** of the Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering (IBBME) and the Faculty of Dentistry, cited for

distinguished contributions to biomedical engineering through research in polymer chemistry and development of medical devices and for leadership in engineering education

- Professor **Molly Shoichet** of chemical engineering and applied chemistry, chemistry and IBBME, cited for distinguished contributions to neural tissue engineering through the design of novel polymers for cell and drug delivery and strategic advice on national research policy.

The AAAS was founded in 1848 and has been admitting fellows since 1874. Fellowship is a prestigious honour, granted for meritorious efforts to advance science or its applications.

"This is fantastic news.

Congratulations to all the new U of T fellows," said Professor **Paul Young**, vice-president (research). "This is one of the great honours in science and reflects the fellow's special innovation and expertise in a particular field, as well as the positive impact their work makes on global society."

The new fellows will be honoured Feb. 19 at the 2011 AAAS annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

Survey asks record number of undergraduates to speak up

BY CHRIS GARBUTT

In the coming weeks the University of Toronto, along with all Ontario universities, will participate in the 2011 National Survey on Student Engagement (NSSE). The survey is a central tool that provides important data for understanding the student experience of first-year and graduating students at the university.

"Surveys are one of the most effective methods we have for understanding the student experience" said Professor **Jill Matus**, vice-provost (students). "NSSE is an important tool that helps us to identify the strengths of a U of T education as well as identify shortcomings and establish priorities for change."

This is the fourth time U of T has participated in the survey, developed by the Center for Postsecondary Research at Indiana University. More than 1,200 higher educational institutions in the United States and Canada use the survey to measure the quality of the

student experience both inside and outside the classroom.

This year, U of T is surveying more students than ever. The university is asking all first-year and fourth-year students from all undergraduate first-entry programs, as well as senior students in the Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, to take part. Students will get an email from the president Feb. 2, inviting them to participate in the web-based survey.

Students who respond to the survey will be entered into a draw for prizes from the U of T Bookstore and Computer Shop, including gift cards and an iPad. Across the institution, staff members are working to promote awareness of the survey and ensure that there is a high response rate.

"We hope that faculty, staff and student leaders will encourage students to keep their eyes open for the invitation email and to participate in the survey," said **Lucy Fromowitz**, assistant vice-president (student life). "Their voices really do make a

difference."

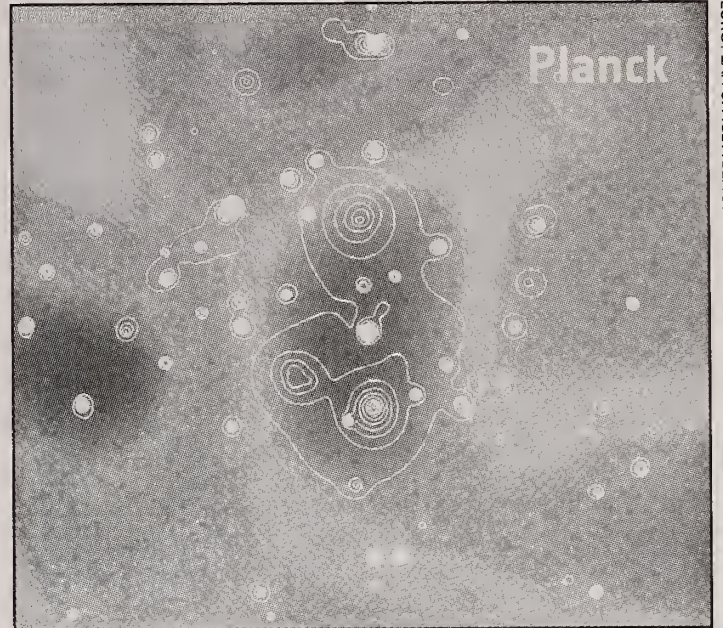
The results of the 2008 survey were published in *Measuring Up on the Undergraduate Student Experience* [www.provost.utoronto.ca/public/reports/NSSE.htm]. In addition, Matus visits divisions to present and discuss their individual results.

"The data helps us measure our progress and focus our initiatives on what is most relevant to student success," she said.

The impact of past surveys has been tangible across the three campuses. Projects as wide-ranging as improved study and lounge space, laboratories, new orientation programs and international field experiences for undergraduate students have all received funding, thanks in part to information derived from NSSE.

In March, U of T will also participate in *The Globe and Mail's* University Report Card. A sample of undergraduate students in second- and third-years will be asked to participate.

U OF T ASTRONOMERS ANNOUNCE PLANCK RESULTS



EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

One of the newly discovered superclusters of galaxies

BY KIM LUKE

U of T astronomers were in Paris Jan. 11 as part of an international conference announcing the first scientific results of the Planck space telescope mission.

Launched in May 2009, the telescope has nearly completed three of its four planned surveys of the entire sky, providing astronomers a glimpse of conditions near the beginning of the universe and providing data that will help answer the big questions: How was the universe formed? How has it evolved to its present form? And what shape will it take in future?

The most sensitive telescope ever designed to study the cosmic microwave background — the remnants of radiation from the big bang some 13 billion years ago and the oldest source of light in the universe — Planck's detectors measure the temperature of this light, searching for regions that are slightly warmer or colder than the average. These small fluctuations in temperature, called anisotropies, provided the seeds for the formation of galaxies that exist today.

The problem is that the radiation left over from the big bang is distorted by objects in the foreground, like galaxies, stars, gas and dust. The Planck team has produced a guidebook of 10,000 foreground objects that will become targets for future study and charted new types of astrophysical structures:

U of T scientists have played a key role on the High Frequency Instrument (HFI), an ultra-sensitive instrument cooled to a fraction of a degree above absolute zero to detect minute cosmic signals. It is one of two instruments on board; the other, Low Frequency Instrument (LFI) involves scientists at the University of British Columbia. Both receive the radiation captured by the satellite's 1.5-metre mirror.

The LFI and the HFI complement each other to analyze the light gathered during the microwave surveys of the sky. These two cameras cover different areas of the light spectrum. Essential software to analyze the HFI signals was developed by a team at U of T led by University **Professor Richard Bond** of the Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics and **Barth Netterfield** of astronomy and astrophysics and physics, to enable rapid verification of the data as they come from the satellite and their subsequent analysis.

The Canadian teams have spent more than a decade working with their international colleagues to plan for the Planck mission and are directly involved in using the data to answer some of the biggest questions in the Universe. Twenty-five scientific papers have been produced in the first two years of operation of the European space observatory, with U of T-CITA scientists serving as authors on the majority of papers.

Professor **Peter Martin** of CITA was chosen to present the overview talk in Paris on cosmic dust in the Milky Way galaxy to introduce the exciting Planck results on these ubiquitous tiny grains.

Bond was chosen to discuss the discoveries by Planck on huge clusters of galaxies by the scattering of the cosmic background radiation from hot high-pressure gas in the clusters. He was also chosen to end the conference with his summary of the scientific import of the remarkable results presented by Planck.

Other U of T scientists in the Planck mission include: **Marc Antoine Miville Deschenes**, **Mike Nolta** and **Jens Chluba** of CITA, who were also in Paris for the Planck unveiling, and **Francine Marleau** of astronomy and astrophysics.

Meet the Entrepreneurs



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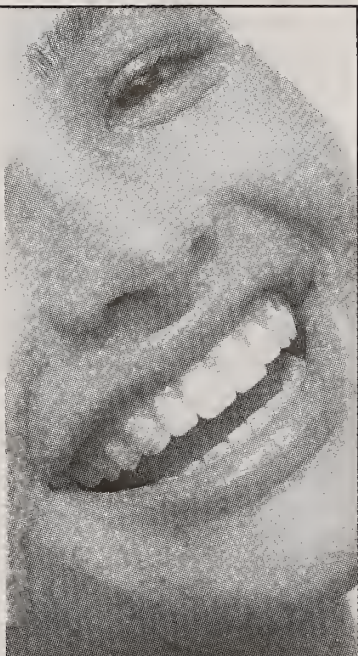
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Remembering Ernest McCulloch

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
collegial atmosphere that remains a hallmark of our research collective," said Professor **Cathy Whiteside**, dean of the Faculty of Medicine in her letter of condolence on behalf of the U of T community.

McCulloch was a University of Toronto graduate and earned his medical degree at U of T in 1948. He began his research career at London, England's Lister Institute, then returned to Toronto to work at Toronto General Hospital, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and the Ontario Cancer Institute. He joined U of T's Faculty of Medicine in 1954.

During his tenure at the university he served as director of

the faculty's Institute of Medicine and as assistant dean of the School of Graduate Studies. His devotion to the university was lifelong and he credited it for much of his success.

"I think the University of Toronto and its emphasis on research was essential to what we were doing," McCulloch told *the Bulletin* in 2005. "It attracted the young men and women who would be excellent graduate students and make original contributions to research. It supplied an environment that was very supportive and helped in many ways as we proceeded to do our work."

His "work," as he called it, led to recognition outside the

university sphere. In addition to the Lasker and Gairdner awards, McCulloch was named a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, where he earned a Silver Jubilee Medal, and the Royal Society of London. He was an officer of the Order of Canada and a member of the Order of Ontario. He and Till, with whom he remained lifelong friends, received honorary degrees from U of T in 2004 and were inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame the same year.

"We will hold Professor McCulloch with fondness in our memories and continue to celebrate his life and legacy at the University of Toronto," said Whiteside.
With files from Paul Cantin.

CAMH psychologist to join U of T Scarborough

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
community. He rounds out a group of world-class faculty members who are putting UTSC psychology on the map, both as educators and researchers."

Bagby's main research focus is on the relationship between personality and psychopathology, with particular attention

to anxiety disorders, affective disorders and pathological gambling. He is also interested in personality disorders, dimensional models of personality and the effect personality has on individual response to different modes of treatment for major depression (such as cognitive therapy and pharmacotherapy).

At UTSC, Bagby will be instrumental in leading a proposed new doctoral program in clinical psychology.

Professor **John Bassili**, chair of psychology at UTSC, said the hiring of Bagby signals the importance that the department gives to creating a pre-eminent program in clinical psychology.

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Diversity can prompt assistance, not distrust, say U of T researchers

BY KEN MCGUFFIN

Whether it's a company with local and expat employees, countries in need of aid or the elderly interacting with the young, a new research paper to be published in the journal *Psychological Science* says recognizing diversity can actually encourage people to help each other instead of sparking conflict.

"The standard assumption has been that group-based differences serve as the basis for distrust, disagreement or dispute," said **Geoffrey Leonardelli**, a professor of management and psychology who co-authored the paper with **Soo Min Toh**, also a management professor at the Rotman School of Management.

"However, we find that group-based differences can actually encourage co-operation across these group lines because they help to identify groups in need from groups that can give aid."

In two field studies, both looking at relations between local and foreign co-workers, the authors found that local employees were most apt to share work-related and cultural information with expatriate co-workers when they perceived their co-workers as foreigners. The authors argued that this effect occurred because recognizing expatriate and local differences helped locals become aware that their foreign co-workers had need for knowledge on the local culture and that they as local employees were experts uniquely positioned to give it to them.

An important condition for such co-operation to occur is that locals need also to perceive a sense of social justice within their organization.

"Recognizing group-based differences will not be perceived as useful unless individuals feel secure within their workplace or community," Toh added. "We think that seeing authorities treat their employees fairly created that sense of security."

The authors found that a sense of social justice also shifted employees' perceptions of diversity.

"Group-based differences often create an 'us versus them' mentality," said Toh. "However, we found that when employees felt that they were treated fairly by their employers, group-based differences were more likely to manifest as an 'us and them' mentality."

Perceiving favouritism by authorities could be one reason why racial profiling by security officers (e.g., police, customs, immigration, transportation security) can be detrimental to developing co-operative relations among different racial groups, as it can fuel the perception that diversity is a basis of distrust.

These outcomes suggest that, instead of attempting to blend into their surroundings, expatriates may find it more beneficial to let their foreign origins be known. Leonardelli, himself a U.S. expatriate living in Canada, said, "Perhaps my adjustment to Canada would have been quicker had I posted an American flag on my front lawn."

THIS BARK HAS COMMERCIAL BITE



Professor Ning Yan (left) of forestry and her team are working on a project to transform tree bark into eco-friendly industrial products. Pictured with Yan are (left to right): PhD student Jason D'Souza, post-doctoral fellow Syed Abthagir, PhD student Yong Zhao, post-doc Zheng Chen and PhD student Zeen Huang.

BY ELAINE SMITH

Researchers at the Faculty of Forestry and Faculty of Applied Sciences and Engineering are working to transform a forest industry waste product into a steady source of income with the help of the provincial government and private industry.

Professor **Ning Yan** and her team are using tree bark, generally discarded by sawmills or used for hog fuel, to create environmentally friendly green adhesives and bio-based foams for use in industry.

"Bark is available in large quantities," said Yan, noting that in Ontario alone about six million bone-dry tonnes are available annually "and it is material ready to be utilized."

Depending on the species of tree being considered, the bark makes up six to 22 per cent of the trunk's weight.

This "magic" waste material contains extracts that can

become the building blocks for eco-friendly adhesives and foams that are used in products as diverse as insulation materials, auto components and building and construction parts. If successful, chemicals and green products from this renewable material will substitute for the traditional petroleum-derived ingredients. Yan and her team believe the market is ready and waiting.

Yan, Professor **Mohini Sain** and Professor **Ramin Farnood** at U of T and colleagues at Lakehead University, together with the industry partners, including FPIInnovations, Woodbridge, Huntsman, Arclin, St-Mary's Paper, Tembec and AbitibiBowater, will be working together in a public-private partnership. The university, the Ontario Research Fund and industry are each funding a third of the \$5.25-million endeavour. They set out to explore the concept

of a bark biorefinery, much like a petrochemical refinery, where instead of crude, bark is converted to multiple products.

"Industry is willing to use these products if we create them," she told her audience at the recent project start-up meeting, attended by representatives from the seven industrial partners and a number of tech transfer organizations, as well as government officials.

The team has chosen to focus on adhesives and foam, not only because of large market size (billions of dollars) but also because the same technology, solvent liquefaction, is used to convert bark from solid to liquid as the starting precursor to both products.

"Initial findings are quite promising but we have only just scratched the surface so far," Yan said.

Stay tuned ... the next car you drive may bark ... and that won't be from your four-legged friend.

Spanish-speaking students focus of new OISE study

BY JANICE SPENCER

A report released by researchers at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) provides students' perspectives to better understand why Spanish-speaking students choose to leave or stay in Toronto schools.

Developed and implemented in collaboration between OISE's Centre for Urban Schooling and the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), this study is the first of its kind in Canada.

In April 2008, the TDSB reported that achievement test scores for Spanish-speaking students were consistently among the lowest for achievement and standardized literacy tests. At that time, they also reported that roughly 40 per cent of these students do not finish

high school.

"Developing strategies for addressing these challenges is a major challenge since there is very little research about the experiences of Latino/a students in the context of either Toronto schools in particular or Canadian schools more generally," said Professor **Rubén Gaztambide-Fernández** of OISE, lead researcher of the study.

"While much more research is needed, this report offers some initial insights about the schooling experiences and engagement processes of Spanish-speaking students in Toronto schools."

The study included 60 students of varying socioeconomic backgrounds with varying levels of academic achievement in grades nine to 12 from six high schools

across Toronto. The students participated in focus groups, individual interviews and a survey. All students identified with and felt a personal connection with a range of countries throughout Latin America.

The following key factors emerged from the student participants as barriers for Spanish-speaking students:

- While learning English is seen as important, many barriers to learning English were identified, such as proper placement and lack of proper level course availability.
- Students are keenly aware that their success later in life is tied to their success in school. However, many students are forced to enter the workforce prior to graduation in order to support their families, jeopardizing their

ability to succeed in school and their ability to pursue a better professional future.

- Students believe that their relationships with teachers and peers are negatively affected by racism and stereotypes.
- Students identified positive relationships and experiences with teachers as an important starting point for improved behaviour and interactions in the classroom.

The report contains a number of ideas and suggestions to help the TDSB overcome the barriers identified in the report. Ideas from student participants included:

- Better support for new immigrant families by providing a Spanish-speaking "student guide" to orient newcomers to the school system.
- Fund a peer-to-peer support

program, which would help to support newcomers culturally, linguistically and scholastically.

- Encourage and provide part-time job opportunities that do not interfere with school success, such as library jobs and other school-site work.
- Add courses in Latin American history and culture to the curriculum to help debunk stereotypes and empower Latino/a students through their own history.
- Create opportunities for students to recognize the teachers with whom they have positive and encouraging relationships.

The TDSB will identify specific actions in the report that can be incorporated into strategies to close the achievement gap for Spanish-speaking students.

English

broadens its scope

Yes, U of T students still read the classics but there are many more facets to the curriculum these days.

Not your grandmother's English class any longer

BY KELLY RANKIN

Literature is like a map.

Through it, readers can trace the ideas and struggles of people from different places and different times and, when it takes us to places that are controversial — such as the recent debates around the release of a censored edition of *Huckleberry Finn* — we have an opportunity to understand the historical context of the idea at issue and ponder its relevance in our time.

“Literature is a tremendous archive of how people have thought about things in the past and it provides us with a foundation for how we think about them in the future,” said Professor **Alan Bewell**, chair of the Department of English. “The bottom

line for me is to think about English for our time. But to be for our time means to know where we've come from, as well as where we're headed.”

Fifty years ago, literature and literary study stood apart from society. The primary goal was to show how literature was different from the rest of the things in society. But all that is changing.

“Now we're really focused on the other side of things. Our mindset now is about recognizing how deeply immersed we are in language. If you are going to grapple with who you are, you have to think about what your words are doing, and what words are doing to you,” said Bewell.

He looks back to the 1980s and the controversy that surrounded HIV/AIDS as an

example of the transformative power of language and literature. It was a resolute political effort to redefine what was meant by words such as AIDS and gay that helped change the way society thought about the disease and brought it to the forefront of social discourse.

“Great literature allows us to engage with the world as it is seen through the diverse perspectives of the characters. It really gets us out of our own heads,” said Bewell.

The breadth of scholarship happening at U of T ranges from Old English and the English literary tradition to post-colonial, African, South Asian, queer and aboriginal literature, to name a few.

“Toronto is a terrific city in which multicultural values and differences are respected.

What we've been trying to do here in the department is make English here at U of T look like the city we live in,” Bewell added.

The department is also concerned with the literary dimensions of other disciplines and how the English language provides fields such as law, medicine and biology with a vocabulary through which they see the world.

Starting in the fall of 2011, students will be offered a course entitled Digital Humanities. The course will explore the differences in understanding and interpreting books in the electronic form and will ask students to think about the new kinds of literature and imagine how they will participate in those new forms.

“We're dealing with a revolution in

Appeal of the classics **endures**

BY ANJUM NAYYAR

Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* is known as one of the world's greatest and most enduring love stories. This tale of the first glance, the first kiss and forbidden love among feuding families has been turned into movies, music and prose familiar to people of all ages.

It's just one of many of the traditional English texts that has had appeal to readers across the world, so much so that it has been translated into many languages. Professor **Paul Stevens** of the Department of English argues the same is true for many other famous English authors such as Jane Austen, Charles Dickens and even John Milton. He said many foreign students have fallen in love with English literature.

“The major English texts taught in the 60s and 70s were pretty traditional and there was considerable fear towards the end of the 70s that as the diversity of students changed, especially at a university like Toronto, students would lose interest in English and turn to different kinds of literature,” said Stevens. “In fact the reverse happened. Traditional canonical literature has flourished.”

Stevens said Milton's texts are massively popular in India and Japan and while the reason for the surge in Japan is unclear, India is easier to understand: Shakespeare and Milton have been part of the curriculum for India's educated classes for almost 200 years.

“If you're teaching Milton, students might have difficulty with some of the prose and some of the less well-known

poems but they usually have no difficulty with *Paradise Lost* because it's so easy to read and such a wonderfully universal story,” he said. “Some people read it as a science fiction novel and you can see how the science fiction element has been exploited by popular writers such as C.S. Lewis and Philip Pullman. Students respond passionately to that. The poem also has a wonderful driving narrative. You want to know what's going to happen even though you do in fact know what is going to happen. It gets students to think about all kinds of religious and philosophical issues, which they might do in less exciting, abstract ways in a philosophy or religion course.”

He noted that Shakespeare and Austen have the most media celebrity, giving rise to many versions of their stories in film.

“There's been a number of cinematic translations and adaptations of Shakespeare and Austen,” said English professor **Victor Li**, who teaches post-colonial literature and said many post-colonial writers have read Shakespeare and other classics. “It's partly because their work uses universal archetypal themes.

“With Austen it's about marriage and wealth and property, etc.,” said Li. “You can easily see how that can translate into the Indian or Asian cultural context where questions of marriage, social status and wealth are key concerns. These themes travel well, can be adopted and adapted universally. Shakespeare's plays deal with vengeance, family feuds, tragic love stories and mistaken identity. One doesn't have to be English to identify with these broader themes.”



Professor Paul Stevens is a renowned Milton scholar.

“The power and emotional impact by a playwright like Milton or Shakespeare is undeniable,” said student **Jaspreet Tambar**. “Despite being born in the West, as someone raised by immigrants, I'm not sure I have the cultural background or experience that may have been assumed in the readership of either writer. Still, their stories have become mine — the jealousy of Iago and the pathos of Satan are expressions of the human condition and this force demands no particular border or

language in its instruction.”

Professor **Robert McGill**, who teaches Canadian literature, said the appeal of the traditional texts lies in the language used by the authors.

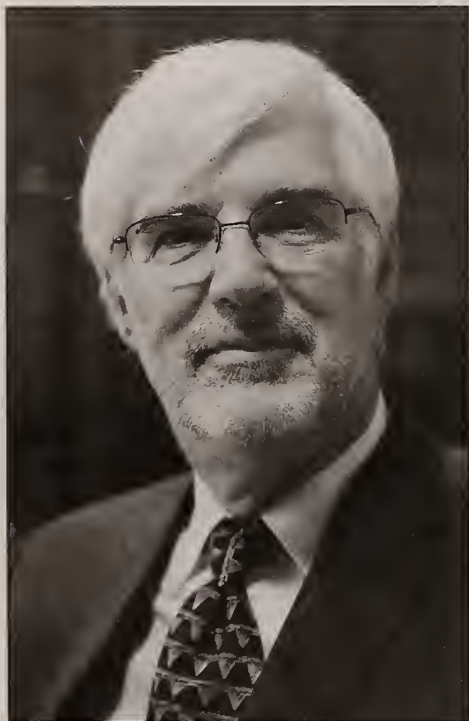
“The appeal of the older texts is that it emerges from cultures that were much more verbal than ours and much more text based. There was much more fluency and articulacy of the written word in those cultures and even an exoticism in the language that might refresh our own acquaintance with English.”

"We're dealing with a revolution in language and the ways in which books are being printed. We don't know where it's headed but certainly the English department needs to be a part of that process."

Professor Alan Bewell

language and the ways in which books are being printed," said Bewell. "We don't know where it's headed but certainly the English department needs to be a part of that process."

See the Department of English website for more information about available programs and courses: www.english.utoronto.ca.



Professor Alan Bewell, chair of the Department of English.

Book history takes us **beyond** words



Professor Daniel White, director of the book history and print culture program, shows off a 19th-century printing press.

BY KELLY RANKIN

When we think about literature, we naturally think of books.

If literature is viewed as an account of how people thought about things in the past, then what is book history? What fascinates book historians? Is it the ideas contained within a book, the insight into another time, another place?

Not exactly; they are concerned with the material form of the written word. Whether it's Sumerian clay tablets, scrolls, codices or today's electronic readers, book historians examine all facets of the book and its related activities.

"Book historians are interested in the actual material object and its creation, transmission and dissemination," said Professor **Daniel White**, director of the book history and print culture program.

They also think about the book as an interface between the writer and the reader. Take for example the act of reading. When viewed from the book historian's perspective, all of the nuances, habits and different ways in which the reader interacts with a book

come to light, activities often overlooked by readers themselves.

"When you study book history, you come to realize there is no one such thing as reading. The act of reading depends profoundly on the medium," said White. "How are you sitting, what are you holding? Are you writing in the margin, or highlighting?"

U of T offers two programs dedicated to book history, both with strong ties to the English department: the University of St. Michael's College (USMC) book and media studies program for undergraduate students and the book history and print culture program, a collaborative program available to graduate students from various faculties and departments including English, history and information.

The program at USMC teaches book history and other topics, including contemporary media and how it shapes culture.

The graduate program studies the relationship of words, what they say and mean and the material forms in which they are transmitted. "When we look at the book we don't just want to read it, we want to know how it was created and disseminated," said White.

Which brings to mind questions such as how will the increasing popularity of electronic readers affect people's reading habits?

Jon Bath, a post-doctoral fellow in the history and future of the book at the Faculty of Information, thinks the emergence of electronic readers has caused a renewed interest in the book and bookmaking practice.

"The rise of electronic books isn't threatening that, it's actually enhancing it. It's almost like a fetish of the object," said Bath.

However, he also thinks that electronic readers have yet to reach their potential. "They're pretty much still books," said Bath. Considering the computing power and multimedia capabilities available today, electronic readers largely rely on printed book standards such as page turning, static images and text.

"I think one of the more exciting things that may emerge is new literary forms, because literary forms are always tied to technology," he added.

The graduate program, in collaboration with St. Mike's, offers the public a glimpse into their world through the Toronto Centre for the Book lecture series.

Turning legalese into English

BY ANJUM NAYYAR

If you've ever been asked what you are going to do with an English degree, you don't need to look further than Professor **Greig Henderson** for an answer.

Henderson, a professor in the Department of English, has made a name for himself teaching Canadian judges and lawyers the value of storytelling when writing judgments and factums (the Canadian term for what Americans call legal briefs). He and his colleagues conduct writing seminars and workshops in both Montreal and Toronto that teach federally appointed judges and lawyers recently called to the bar how to make their legal arguments succinct and how to lay out the issues upfront in their decisions and briefs.

"We're trying to teach them to unlearn what they've learned in law school," said Henderson. "The problem with most legal discourse is that it plunges you into a thicket of fact and detail without providing any context."

He said the Written Advocacy Program, conducted annually, is devoted to teaching lawyers how to write

effective briefs. The program provides expert multidisciplinary instruction from a team of trial and appellate judges, writing professionals and top legal practitioners on how to improve written arguments. Henderson said the seminar provides small hands-on breakout groups, a detailed discussion and critique of each participant's work and valuable tips participants can use immediately.

"Effective writing is becoming more and more crucial. Written arguments didn't matter all that much in the past but now if you're appearing before the Ontario Court of Appeal, you have 20 minutes to make your case orally. If the panel starts asking you questions, you may find you only have five minutes to make your case, meaning that the brief you earlier submitted is now absolutely crucial," said Henderson.

The importance of clear legal writing is so universally recognized, he said, that many firms routinely send their lawyers to writing programs and almost every federally appointed judge is required to take the judicial writing program sponsored by the Canadian Institute for the

Administration of Justice.

Henderson said U of T's English department has the breadth and depth necessary to give students the skills necessary to pursue this line of work if they choose.

"I say to my students that if you want to do writing consulting full time, there's a genuine need and a real market out there. Your English degree equips you or anyone who knows the fundamentals of composition to do this. There's a huge demand for writing instruction, not just in law, but also across the professions."

Henderson said most young professionals have worked really hard to acquire their esoteric vocabularies and love to use them assertively to prove they belong to their professions. He said it can then be hard to be the person who tries to make people change their habits and renounce their jargon. Nevertheless, most of them, however grudgingly, come to see the virtues of a plain style.

"We become different people when we write something," he noted. "There's something about writing that brings out the pedant in everyone."

Hearts and grace notes at upcoming Breakfast With *the Bulletin*

BY AILSA FERGUSON

"If music be the food of love, play on," wrote Shakespeare in *Twelfth Night*, and Breakfast With *the Bulletin* plans to do as suggested on Thursday, Feb. 10.

In celebration of Valentine's Day, the first Breakfast With *the Bulletin* of 2011 will feature love songs by 20th-century British composer Roger Quilter, set to texts by such renowned poets as William Shakespeare, Ben Jonson and Percy Bysshe Shelley.

Soprano **Lorna MacDonald** will perform the songs, accompanied by pianist **Steven Philcox**.

"They are charming and romantic and both Steven and I enjoy performing them, as well as talking about them and the text setting," said MacDonald.

In hearing MacDonald and Philcox perform, listeners will be in for a treat. MacDonald is the Faculty of Music's Lois Marshall Chair in Voice Performance. She studied at Dalhousie University and the New England Conservatory of Music and has an active vocal career of her own. In 2011, her vocal commitments include performances with Opera Nova Scotia as Antonida in Glinka's *Ivan Susanin*, as

well as the Thursdays at Noon series at the faculty. Her musical career has seen her perform throughout Europe, North America and Asia and she is also sought after as a master class clinician and adjudicator for competitions including the Metropolitan Opera auditions, among others.

Philcox, an assistant professor of collaborative piano, studied at the University of British Columbia and the Manhattan School of Music. He is sought after as an accompanist and has performed with many renowned singers including Richard Margison, Isabel Bayrakdarian, Shannon Mercer and Measha Brueggergosman. Many of the world's renowned concert halls are on his resumé, including New York City's Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. He joined U of T after 11 seasons as vocal coach, répétiteur and assistant conductor with the Canadian Opera Company.

"We are delighted to have the opportunity to showcase such talented faculty members to their colleagues," said **Elaine Smith**, editor of *the Bulletin*. "Their insights into the songs themselves and the texts will simply add extra flavour to their performance."



Professor Lorna MacDonald (right), a renowned soprano, will showcase her talents performing love songs at the Feb. 10 Breakfast With *the Bulletin*. She is pictured here with fellow Faculty of Music professor Lydia Wong.

As an added bonus, Professor **Don McLean**, new dean of the Faculty of Music, will introduce the program.

Breakfast With *the Bulletin* takes place at Hart House with a buffet breakfast beginning at 7:30 a.m., followed by the program from 8 to 8:45 a.m.

It is free to all staff and faculty, but reservations are required at **eBulletin@utoronto.ca**, because space is limited.

Celebrate Valentine's Day at a Breakfast With the Bulletin

Who: Soprano Lorna MacDonald and Pianist Steven Philcox

What: Love Songs

Where: Hart House Music Room

When: Thursday, Feb. 10; breakfast at 7:30 a.m., program at 8 a.m.

Cost: Free to faculty and staff; registration required at **eBulletin@utoronto.ca**

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Contributions to increasing accessibility on campus may include, but are not limited to: addressing attitudinal or policy barriers, raising awareness about disability issues, fostering accessible learning environments, creating physically accessible space, providing support, and modeling success. Staff members whose direct job responsibilities encompass assisting persons with disabilities are not eligible for nomination.

One award will be presented in each of the five categories:
Student, Faculty, Staff, Group, and Person Living with a Disability.

Each nomination package must include:

- A completed nomination form (available at www.accessibility.utoronto.ca)
- A short nomination statement from the nominator, outlining why you think your nominee should be considered for an award.

In order to make the nominations process more accessible, a digital recording can substitute the written statement. If you wish to make a nomination in person or you have any additional questions, please contact Sarah Mumford at **sarah.mumford@utoronto.ca**

Nominations packages can be submitted electronically or to both Accessibility Services offices located at:

Robarts Library
130 St. George Street
1st Floor

215 Huron Street
Suite 939
9th Floor

Submission deadline is February 11, 2011 at 5 PM

HE SAID SHE SAID

Handle with care

BY CAZ ZYVATKAUSKAS

You may have encountered certain people who look down their noses at you but have you ever encountered any who looked through their nose? I had such an opportunity when I took an assignment for a photo shoot at Varsity Arena.

The job was to showcase the University of Toronto's mascot True Blue — a giant furry blue beaver — as he performed his spirited duties at a hockey game.

It is easy to scoff at a mascot with his oversized head, googly eyes and enormous feet in which he must perform crazy antics, including ludicrous dances, exaggerated waves and funny walks. The mascot is awkward and he waddles rather than walks — more like a supersized teddy bear teetering on a tightrope than a dignified embodiment of team spirit. Yet in spite of this awkwardness, people are drawn to him.

Children rush up to poke him, fans demand to have their pictures taken with him and passersby engage him in conversation as if he were a political candidate. (This I found odd because a mascot does not talk.)

Before the photo shoot began True Blue explained that once he put on his mammoth head he couldn't utter a word. It's the Code of the Mascots. He would signal with a thumbs up or sweeping arm gesture. Blinking was out of the question. His saucer eyes were permanently fixed in wide-open amazement. If I wanted True

Blue's attention, I would have to talk to his nose — a black piece of mesh through which the human inside the costume viewed the world. To aid in this limited view a cheerleader accompanied him as a handler.

All was going well — kids mobbed him for hugs, fans high-fived him and photographed him and generally everyone responded pleasantly. In his silent and



impressive presence I was taken on a tour through the arena. Then True Blue signalled that he needed to take off his head.

As we sat in the change room, with his big blue animal head on his lap while the human one cooled, the inner True Blue explained the limits to his vision and the difficulties he had maneuvering stairs with his hugely over-sized feet. The cheerleader interrupted to retrieve her coat. We waited.

After a quarter of an hour, when it looked very much as if the young handler would not return, I made a pledge to True Blue. "Don't worry, I'll be your handler." Both nervous and excited, I helped him on with his head and stepped into the breach.

Within a few minutes I had become so confident with my new abilities — steering the mascot up and down stairs, warning him of tripping hazards, bringing eager youngsters into his field of vision — that when special guest Carlton the Bear — the official mascot of the Toronto Maple Leafs — arrived, I cautiously left my post to invite the fellow furry critter over for a photograph. Employing my new aptitude I pressed on the bear's furry arm and stared him squarely in the nose, speaking loud and clear. "Photograph?" Carlton responded with a thumbs up. I confidently guided him into position.

So, I've added mascot handling to my list of life skills. It is an emboldening skill — being the seeing eye for other professionals, guiding them when they cannot see and warning them about the hazards in their surroundings without dampening the spirit of mascot and fan alike. Alas, our institution does not offer mascot handling as a career choice. Those are skills one must learn on the job.

Do not be deterred — for as strange and unfamiliar as the life of a mascot handler may seem at first, you will fit in, for a true mascot will never look down his nose at a novice handler — even though he may well need to look through it to see where you are coming from.

Caz Zyvatkaukas is a U of T history student who doubles as designer of the Bulletin. She shares this space with Paul Fraumeni.

CAZ ZYVATKAUSKAS

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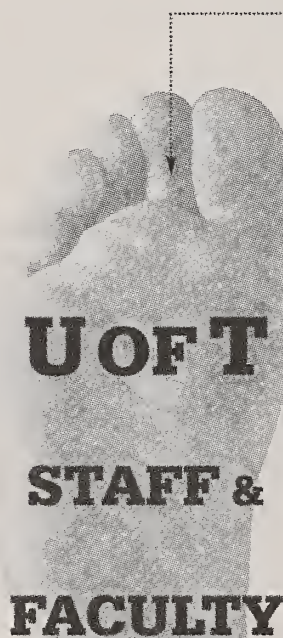
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Dr. Neil Pilkington (Psychologist). Assessment and individual, couples and group cognitive-behaviour therapy for: anxiety/phobias, depression/low self-esteem, stress and anger management, couples issues and sexual identity/orientation concerns. Staff/faculty healthcare benefits provide full coverage. Morning, afternoon and evening

appointments. Downtown/TTC. 416-977-5666. Email dr.neil.pilkington@rogers.com

Psychotherapy for personal and relationship issues. Individual, group and couple therapy. U of T extended health plan provides coverage. For a consultation call Dr. Heather A. White, Psychologist, 416-535-9432, 140 Albany Avenue (Bathurst/Bloor). drhwhite@rogers.com

Evelyn Sommers, PhD, Psychologist, provides psychotherapy and counselling for individuals and couples from age 17. Covered under U of T benefits. Yonge/Bloor. Visit www.ekslibris.ca; call 416-413-1098.

Individual psychotherapy for adults. Evening hours available. Extended benefits coverage for U of T staff. Dr. Paula Gardner, Registered Psychologist, 114 Maitland St. (Wellesley and Jarvis). 416-570-2957.

Psychoanalysis & psychoanalytic psychotherapy for adolescents, adults, couples. U of T extended health benefits provide coverage. Dr. Klaus Wiedermann, Registered Psychologist, 1033 Bay St., ste. 204, tel: 416-962-6671.

Dr. Cindy Wahler, Registered Psychologist. Yonge/St. Clair area. Individual and couple psychotherapy. Depression, relationship difficulties, women's issues, health issues, self-esteem. U of T extended healthcare plan covers psychological services. 416-961-0899. cwahler@sympatico.ca

Sam Minsky, PhD (Registered Psychologist). Individual and couple psychotherapy and counselling covered under U of T extended health plan. Close to downtown campus. 647-209-9516. sam.minsky@sympatico.ca

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Miscellany

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LECTURES

Far Horizons: Scale, Society and Complexity in the First Millennium BCE in South India.

Wednesday, January 26

Prof. Carla Sinopoli, University of Michigan. 1101 Sandford Fleming Building. 5:15 p.m. *Archaeological Institute of America, Toronto Society*

Big Discoveries Made in Small Laboratories-on-a-Chip.

Sunday, January 30

Prof. Eugenia Kumacheva, chemistry. Auditorium, Medical Sciences Building. 3 p.m. *Royal Canadian Institute*

Biological Synthesis of Fuels and Chemicals.

Wednesday, February 2

Prof. James Liao, University of California, Los Angeles. 116 Wallberg Building. 12:30 p.m. *Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry*

Upgrading the Renaissance Computer: Knowledge Technologies Between the Archive and the Book.

Wednesday, February 2

Prof. Alan Galey, Faculty of Information. Senior Common Room, Burwash Hall, Victoria College, 91 Charles St. W. 4 p.m. *Reformation & Renaissance Studies and Toronto Renaissance & Reformation Colloquium*

The Quantum World: From Weird to Wired.

Sunday, February 6

Prof. Joseph Emerson, University of Waterloo. Auditorium, Medical Sciences Building. 3 p.m. *Royal Canadian Institute*

COLLOQUIA

Time Out of Mind: Remembering the Future in the Debate Over Science and Religion.

Wednesday, February 2

Prof. John Schellenberg, Mount St. Vincent University. 323 Old Victoria College Building. 4 p.m. *History & Philosophy of Science & Technology*

SEMINARS

Challenges Confronting the Justice System in Post-Conflict Liberia.

Wednesday, January 26

Jim Dube, partner emeritus, Blake, Cassels, Graydon LLP. Solarium, Falconer Hall, 84 Queen's Park. 12:30 to 2 p.m. *Law*

The Viability of Time-of-Use (TOU) Pricing for Electricity Conservation in Ontario.

Wednesday, January 26

Russell Houldin, Ontario Energy Board. 1072 Sidney Smith Hall. 4:10 p.m. *Environment*

The Development and Implementation of Mental Health Guidelines for Seniors.

Thursday, January 27

Prof. David Conn, psychiatry. Ste. 106, 222 College St. Noon to 1:30 p.m. *Life Course & Aging*

COMMITTEES

Chair, Department of French

A search committee has been established in the Faculty of Arts & Science to recommend a chair of the Department of French. Members are: Professors Meric Gertler, dean, Faculty of Arts & Science (chair); Brian Corman, dean, School of Graduate Studies; Corinne Denoyelle, Yves Roberge and Alexie Tcheuyap, French; Domenico Pietropaolo, Italian studies; Mihaela Pirvulescu, language studies, U of T Mississauga; Pascal Riendeau, humanities, U of T Scarborough; and Sandy Welsh, acting vice-dean (teaching and learning), Faculty of Arts & Science; and Geeta Paray-Clarke, senior lecturer, French; Linda Lamisong, undergraduate administrative assistant and counsellor, French; and Marie-Therese Ballin, graduate student, and Erin Brassel, undergraduate student, French.

The committee would appreciate receiving nominations and/or comments from interested members of the university community. These should be submitted to Professor Meric Gertler, dean of the Faculty of Arts & Science, Room 2005, Sidney Smith Hall, email, officeofthedeans.artsci@utoronto.ca by Jan. 27.

Power Relations in Domestic Private Enterprises in China.

Friday, January 28

Prof. Xiaodan Zhang, City University of New York. 208N Munk School of Global Affairs. 10 a.m. to noon. Registration: webapp.mcis.utoronto.ca/Events.aspx. *Asian Institute*

CSI vs. DIY: Photography Between Aftermath and Aftermarket.

Friday, January 28

Prof. Sane Relyea, Northwestern University. 208N Munk School of Global Affairs. 2 to 4 p.m. *Study of the United States and Art*

Rewriting Kinship and Citizenship: Transnational Korean Adoptees in the Politics of Multiculturalism in South Korea.

Friday, January 28

Prof. Eleana Kim, University of Rochester. 200 Gerald Larkin Building, 15 Devonshire Place. 2 to 4 p.m. Registration: webapp.mcis.utoronto.ca/Events.aspx. *Study of Korea and Asian Institute*

'Meaning Rationalism' and Topology of Meaning.

Saturday, January 29

Prof. Em. Peter Harries-Jones, York University. 205 Northrop Frye Hall, Victoria University. 10 a.m. to noon. *Toronto Semiotic Circle*

Control of Cardiovascular Development by MicroRNAs.

Monday, January 31

Jason Fish, Toronto General Research Institute. 2172 Medical Sciences Building. 4 p.m. *Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology*

Cities Leading the Way — in Canada and Around the World.

Wednesday, February 2

David Miller, former mayor of Toronto. Faculty Club. 4:10 p.m. *Environment*

The Seventh Ward and the Studio.

Friday, February 4

Prof. Saidiya Hartman, Columbia University. Vivian & David Campbell Conference Facility, Munk School of Global Affairs. 2 to 4 p.m. *Study of the United States, English and Diaspora & Transnational Studies*

Looking Under the Hood of Cells: Nanoscopic Imaging With PALM.

Friday, February 4

Jennifer Lippincott-Schwartz, National Institute of Child Health & Human Development. 432 Ramsay Wright Building. 2 p.m. *Cell & Systems Biology*

Managing Without Growth, Slower by Design, not Disaster.

Wednesday, February 9

Prof. Peter Victor, York University. 1072 Sidney Smith Hall. 4:10 p.m. *Environment*

MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

Rebellion: Subversive Perspectives.

Thursday, January 27

and Friday, January 28

The fifth annual Department of Art graduate symposium, Rebellion: Subversive Perspectives, will feature a fruitful exchange of cross-cultural research as this year's panellists explore the implications of controversial visual practice from a variety of interdisciplinary perspectives. The keynote address will be delivered by Shary Boyle, an award-winning artist. Jan. 27 at 5:30 p.m. U of T Art Centre. Information: gusta.symposium@gmail.com; RSVP: utac.rsvp@utoronto.ca.

Unravelling the Universe.

Friday, January 28

Annual Expanding Canada's Frontiers symposium, featuring Profs. Alexei Filippenko, University of California, Berkeley; Gil Holder, McGill University; and Michel Lefebvre, University of Victoria. Convocation Hall. 7 to 10 p.m. Tickets \$20, \$25 at the door, students free (with ID and pre-registration). Tickets available at uofttx.ca; 416-978-8849. *Astronomy & Space Exploration Society*

MUSIC

U OF T ART CENTRE

The Ton Beau Quartet.

Wednesday, January 26

Featuring Linnea Thacker, Alexa Wilks (violins), Alex McLeod (viola) and Sarah Steeves (cello). Noon.

FACULTY OF MUSIC EDWARD JOHNSON BUILDING New Music Festival.

Thursday, January 27

Music by Chen Yi and U of T composers; part I includes the presentation of the Roger D. Moore Distinguished Visitor medallion to Chen Yi. Walter Hall. 12:10 p.m. Part II includes a world premiere by Alexander Rapoport. Walter Hall. 7:30 p.m.

Friday, January 28

Electro-acoustic music concert, presented by Dennis Patrick. Walter Hall. Noon.

Trio sTREga in concert; music by Chen Yi and U of T composers, featuring trio sTREga (Ewa Sas, violin; Katarzyna Marczak, clarinet; Erika Crinó, piano), with guest David Hetherington, cello. Walter Hall. 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 29

Joint concert: gamUT and U of T Concert Orchestra; music by Chen Yi and U of T composers. Walter Hall. 7:30 p.m.

Chamber Music Series.

Monday, January 31

Gryphon Trio, artists-in-residence. Walter Hall. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$35, students and seniors \$25.

Monday, February 7

Imani Winds. Walter Hall. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$35, students and seniors \$25.

Master Classes.

Tuesday, February 1

Gryphon Trio master class. Walter Hall. 10 a.m. to noon.

Tuesday, February 8

Imani Winds master class. Walter Hall. 10 a.m. to noon.

Thursdays at Noon.

Thursday, February 3

Music & Poetry: Brett Polegato, baritone; Che Anne Loewen, piano; commentary by Eric Domville.

U of T Symphony Orchestra.

Saturday, February 5

David Briskin, conductor. A special all-faculty presentation to welcome Dean Don McLean, featuring chamber music, wind and brass, choral and operatic performances. MacMillan Theatre. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$15, students and seniors \$10.

EMMANUEL COLLEGE CHAPEL.

Friday, February 4

Bowen Concert of Early Music, presented by the Centre for Reformation & Renaissance Studies and featuring Scaramella. 7:30 p.m.

PLAYS & READINGS

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels.

Wednesday to Saturday,

January 26 to January 29

Based on the film *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*; directed by Jeremy Hutton. Hart House Theatre production. Hart House Theatre. Performances at 8 p.m., Saturday matinee Jan. 29, 2 p.m. Tickets \$25, students and seniors \$15; students \$10 Wednesday.

Witches and Bitches.

Tuesday to Saturday,

January 25 to January 29

By William Shakespeare and Friends, compiled and adapted by Patrick Young; directed by Kelly Straughan. Theatre Erindale production. Erindale Studio Theatre, U of T Mississauga. Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; weeknights 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$15, students and seniors \$10. Box office: 905-569-4369; www.theatreerindale.com.

EXHIBITIONS

BLACKWOOD GALLERY

U OF T MISSISSAUGA

Following Following Piece

To March 6

Thérèse Mastroiacovo: Arranged According to the Numbers; curated by Christof Migone. Gallery hours: Monday to Friday, noon to 5 p.m.; Wednesday to 9 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, noon to 3 p.m.

U OF T ART CENTRE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

To March 19

The University College Collection: Great Art for a Great University.

Created largely through the generosity of donors over many generations, the University College collection comprises

some 500 works of art, ranging in date from the earliest years of the college to the present.

North Korean Images at Utopian's Edge.

The exhibition spans three decades and features 24 wood block prints from the Nicholas Bonner Collection, offering a fascinating picture of North Korean conceptions of daily life and work, family and "Fatherland." Hours: Tuesday to Friday, noon to 5 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 4 p.m.

DORIS MCCARTHY GALLERY U OF T SCARBOROUGH

inbetween.

To February 20

Several artists examine the conversations of physical and psychological space, investigating the places and spaces in which lives are played out. Gallery hours: Wednesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 5 p.m.

THOMAS FISHER RARE BOOK LIBRARY

'Great and Manifold': A Celebration of the Bible in English.

February 7 to June 3

Commemorating the 400th anniversary of the first printing of the King James Bible, this exhibition offers a selection of rare manuscripts and books that trace the evolution of the English Bible from the Middle Ages to current times; curated by Pearce Carefoote. Hours: Monday to Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

MISCELLANY

Celebration of Robert Burns.

Friday, January 28

A celebration of the life and poetry of Robert Burns, with dinner and entertainment. Charbonnel Lounge, Elmsley Hall, St. Michael's College, 81 St. Mary St. 7 to 11 p.m. Tickets \$40, students \$30 (tickets must be purchased in advance). Information: 416-926-7141. *Celtic Studies*

Knowing Bodies: A Visual and Poetic Inquiry Into Gender, Dress and the Professoriate.

Tuesday, February 1

Prof. Fiona Blaikie, Brock University. 2-214 Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, 252 Bloor St. W. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. *Women's Studies in Education, OISE*

Melting-Pot Modernism.

Wednesday, February 2

Book launch of *Melting-Pot Modernism* (Cornell University Press) by Sarah Wilson, English. Vivian & David Campbell Conference Facility, Munk School of Global Affairs. 4 to 5:30 p.m. *Study of the United States*

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WHEN EVIDENCE MEETS **IMAGINATION**

HISTORICAL FICTION AND THE POSSIBILITIES OF KNOWLEDGE

BY DAVID TOWNSEND

Not to beat around the bush, I'm an academic who's written an historical novel — or at least a manuscript that may yet one day become a novel published between covers. To make matters worse, I've encouraged an undergraduate student to do the same, and to expect academic credit for the exercise, by supervising her directed reading project. And now the two of us find ourselves asking, how could we ever convince the university to regularize such an enterprise?

My own starting point was to ask, when two female mystics met in 1413, as we know from reliable sources that Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe did, what happened? What was it like? I mean, what was it really like? My student, embarking on her project, asked the same self-consciously unacademic question about the objects of her study — and then set out to assemble the materials for her answer through wide-ranging research.

To ask such questions but then presume to answer them within the framework of a novel — is this not to move from the responsible production of new knowledge into a realm of irresponsible and self-indulgent pleasure? Surely history deals in positive fact, tested by a principle of refutability.

Most of us are good-natured about historical fiction. We're glad it popularizes the periods in which we specialize — or at least, if we have our eyes open in a culture where interest in anything but the immediate present is so attenuated, we ought to be. We accept it as genteel middle-brow entertainment but we're inclined to see it as intellectually derivative. It may be the repository of much knowledge derived from elsewhere, but what it adds isn't further knowledge but rather mere discourse. And that's as far as we're generally willing to go.

But let me counter with some questions from the other side of the looking glass. What if we were to grant the fundamental seriousness of what historical fiction sets out to do? If what a good historical novel does counted as the production of knowledge, what then would we mean by knowledge? And would such knowledge actually supplement, in some important sense, what's possible according to the more normative protocols of academic history?

I'll cite just two favourite books as examples that what good historical novelists do shouldn't be seen as

watering down the "real" work of historical writing but rather as laying bare the imaginative investment that necessarily informs any historical work that can speak to the present in a meaningful way: David Liss's *A Conspiracy of Paper* and Tracy Chevalier's *Girl With a Pearl Earring*. What's evident in both, as in all good historical fiction, is a commitment to the specificity of place, social milieu and cultural circumstance — a concern with "getting right" the details of setting, broadly conceived. Put another way, what we expect in historical fiction is the evocation of a cohesive, existentially convincing world, one that we can believe really existed outside the imagination of the author.

Such an agenda is likely to raise the suspicion of both literary critics and of academic historians. For critics, the criteria of satisfaction in historical fiction are too realist, too based in a commitment to what lies outside and beyond the fictive, intratextual world, too bound to considerations that arise from beyond the untrammelled creativity of the writer. It's this need to be true to a world that has a prior claim on the writer that leads many critics, some readers, and certainly some publishers, to dismiss historical

novels as "genre" fiction. At the same time, it's the willingness to say that the data find fulfilment and actualization in the imagination of the writer, and in turn in that of the reader, that raises the hackles of academics. Liss, in the author's note to his first novel, *A Conspiracy of Paper*, is deliberately provocative on this score. He has this to say in a historical note at the end of his novel:

"This novel grew out of my work as a doctoral candidate at Columbia University, where my research focused on the ways in which eighteenth-century Britons imagined themselves through their money. After years in the archives, reading pamphlets, poems, plays, periodical essays, and long-forgotten novels, I failed to find the source that told me precisely what I wanted to know about the new finance. So I wrote one."

The comment flaunts both academic and literary protocols and thus encapsulates the double bind in which historical fiction finds itself. At the same time, Liss is announcing his defiance of such judgments. Behind the irony of his comment lies a serious claim that Liss' book creates a kind of knowledge of the thick texture of London amid the craze of the South Sea speculation

of 1720, otherwise inaccessible to us, from the very particular individual perspective of its narrator, the black sheep ex-prize fighter scion of a Sephardic Jewish merchant family. He creates, in other words, a metonymy for an otherwise unrecoverable concreteness of historical understanding. It's in doing this that his comment on the writing of the source he couldn't discover amounts to more than mere self-deprecating flippancy.

The question of credentials divides the work of writers like Liss from that of other successful historical novelists, among them Chevalier. Chevalier wrote her memoir of Jan Vermeer's kitchen maid and clandestine studio assistant on the strength of a conscientious but narrowly defined stint of research into 17th-century Dutch culture. Her very brief acknowledgment of sources lists but a handful of scholarly studies. And yet, what Chevalier offers us of Vermeer's world is a valuable speculation on how economic necessity, considerations of class, constraints of religious identity and dynamics of gender must have impinged on the production of his oeuvre. Her novel raises questions that need to be asked in order to interpret Vermeer adequately to the contemporary viewer. Her book instantiates the possibilities of how such considerations must have intersected in his life and the lives of those around him, the fictionality of her narrator and of the specific events of her plot notwithstanding.

It's true that historical fiction, above all else, hopes to entertain. But here, before a readership made up in large part of my academic colleagues, I'll also doggedly insist that the writing of historical fiction also creates new knowledge — not the knowledge born of positivist certainty (when is that ever available to the human sciences, although we've spent much energy in recent generations pretending in often bad faith that it is) but the knowledge born of the entertainment that possibility and of the recognition that imaginary events can stand in as metonymies for something far more important — to borrow the formulation of Leopold Ranke, the great father of "scientific" history in 19th-century Germany, *wie es eigentlich gewesen ist*, "the way it really was."

David Townsend is a professor in the Centre for Medieval Studies and the Department of English. His novel, *The Ram in the Thicket*, awaits publication.

